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News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

January 09, 2007 - 006

Highway 522 To Undergo Major Rehabilitation

Highway Improvement Shows Government Is On The Side Of Northerners

SUDBURY – The Ontario government is investing \$5.8 million in the rehabilitation of Highway 522 west of Trout Creek, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"I am pleased with the investment being made to improve this important regional highway," said Bartolucci. "This is one of several major rehabilitation projects that will greatly improve highway infrastructure throughout the region."

The project involves resurfacing 15 kilometres of Highway 522 west of Highway 524. Work will include drainage improvements to reduce frost heaving, the rehabilitation of the Commanda Creek Bridge and replacement of a culvert at Peever's Creek. Work is underway now and once complete in the fall of 2007, the project will result in a smoother ride and improved safety for motorists.

"Our government is on the side of northerners. That's why we are investing an unprecedented amount of funding in vital northern infrastructure," said Bartolucci. "This is one of numerous projects cited in the 2006 Northern Highways Program, part of our commitment to invest \$1.8 billion over five years to make sure northern highways are safe and efficient."

"Northern communities depend on our network of highways," said Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield. "Improved highways will improve safety, create jobs and foster prosperity throughout Northern Ontario."

The commitment to expanding and rehabilitating northern highways was set out in ReNew Ontario, the province's five-year strategic infrastructure investment plan that will help prepare for future growth.

The Ontario government is renewing and expanding vital highway infrastructure as part of its Northern Prosperity Plan. The plan is founded on four key pillars including: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All. Since 2003, investments in infrastructure, postsecondary education, research and innovation and key economic sectors have strengthened Ontario's economic advantage and continue to build opportunity.

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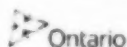
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